

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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R 291545Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFB DEPT OF ARMY COE

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DEPT PASS AID

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID EG

SUBJECT: SCA REQUEST FOR COE HOPPER DREDGER

1. AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM SCA CHAIRMAN MASHOUR ENCLOSING COPY OF AN EARLIER LETTER SENT TO MAJOR GENERAL J.W. MORRIS INQUIRING ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY FOR HIRE OF COE HOPPER DREDGER TO ASSIST IN DREDGING PORT SAID ROADSTEAD. SIZE OF DREDGER SHOULD BE ABOUT 6,000 CUBIC METER CAPACITY. MASHOUR'S LETTER TO GENERAL MORRIS RELATES REQUEST TO "RECENT ENCOURAGING NEWS ABOUT THE US ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT." IN HIS LETTER TO AMBASSADOR, HE ASKS FOR HELP IN EXPEDITING A RESPONSE. FROM WHAT I GATHER, SUCH A HOPPER DREDGER WOULD BE USEFUL IN CLEARING PORT SAID ROADSTEAD. IF COE COULD MAKE IT AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO OTHER WORK, WE WOULD RECOMMEND AFFIRMATIVE REPLY.

HOWEVER, IF MASHOUR HAS IN MIND THAT RENTAL OF DREDGER SHOULD BE DEFRAIDED FROM US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MONEY FOR EGYPT, WE WOULD RECOMMEND AGAINST THIS.

3. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT GOE NO LONGER EXPECTS \$50 MILLION INITIALLY ALLOCATED FOR SUEZ CANAL
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CLEARANCE TO BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE SINCE SAUDI

FUNDS HAVE BECOME AVAILABLE. EGYPTIANS THEMSELVES ARE ALREADY EXPLORING OTHER USES FOR THIS BLOCK OF MONEY. PRIMIN HEGAZY CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR JAN 27 THAT NO FUNDS NEEDED FOR SUEZ CANAL CLEARING. WE DO NOT KNOW, HOWEVER, WHETHER MASHOUR HAS BEEN APPRISED OF THIS GOE DECISION AND ARE ATTEMPTING DISCREETLY ASCERTAIN WHETHER HE AWARE OF IT. SINCE HE SPENDS MUCH OF HIS TIME IN ISMAILIA THESE DAYS, HE IS A HARD MAN TO CATCH.

4. STILL ANOTHER REASON WHY WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND USE OF US AID MONIES TO RENT A HOPPPER DREDGER IS TRANSITORY NATURE OF DREDGING OPERATION. WE BELIEVE US AID MONEY SHOULD TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE BE USED FOR IDENTIFIABLE PURPOSES OF SOME PERMANENT OR SEMI-PERMANENT NATURE RATHER THAN FOR SERVICES WHICH WILL QUICKLY BE FORGOTTEN.

5. ABOVE DOES NOT RPT NOT OF COURSE APPLY TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND WE ARE STILL TRYING TO ASCERTAIN MASHOUR'S LATEST VIEWS ON COE ASSISTANCE FOR SUEZ CANAL PLANNING PURPOSES.
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Disposition Authority: izenbei0
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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